

# NATIONAL CANNERS ASSOCIATION



## Information Letter



FOR N. C. A. MEMBERS

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### Customs Case Involving Canned Peas

At the December term there will come before the Customs Court in New York the question whether or not the duty on imported canned peas should be assessed on the total contents of the container including liquid, or upon the weight of the peas alone.

In the case of Peabody against the United States, (T. D. 40935) this question arose with reference to canned pineapples in water and the Court of Customs Appeals there held that the water surrounding the pineapples was not dutiable. The court seems to have been influenced very largely by the fact that the water was thrown away and no use was made of it.

In the case of Neuman & Schwiers Co. v. the United States, (T. D. 41689) the liquid contents of canned string beans were held dutiable. In that case it appeared that the liquid was served and consumed together with the beans.

It is the contention of the Government that as to canned peas the same conditions obtain as in the case of canned string beans, namely, that the liquid is served and consumed with the peas, and that therefore the court should make the same ruling.

The Government counsel has indicated that they will be glad to receive any assistance which this Association can offer them in maintaining their contention, and this office will be glad to prepare a list of witnesses and make suggestions which might assist them in this matter. The Association will be pleased to hear from any canner who is willing to testify for the Government or who has any suggestions which would help the Government counsel in maintaining their case.

### **Bulletin on Market Research Agencies**

In last week's Information Letter a brief report was given of the conference on market research held at the U. S. Department of Commerce. The Department has now issued a bulletin of 80 pages giving a list of more than 300 agencies that have at various times engaged in making analyses of commodity markets. Besides the many government and state bureaus these agencies include chambers of commerce, cooperative marketing associations, newspapers, magazines, universities, advertising agencies, and other private business concerns. Markets for all sorts of commodities have been analyzed, including such widely different items as automobiles, dairy products, pianos, electrical appliances, and canned foods.

"Market Research Agencies" is published as Domestic Commerce Series No. 6. Copies may be obtained for 15 cents from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C., or from any of the branch offices of the Department of Commerce which are located in most of the large cities.

### **Statistical Abstract for 1925 Available**

The Statistical Abstract for 1925, published by the United States Department of Commerce, is now ready for distribution. It is a volume of about 800 pages presenting a condensed but comprehensive summary of statistical data regarding the life and business of the American people. Copies may be purchased from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, for one dollar and they may also be obtained at the district and cooperative offices of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

### **German Fruit Brokers Organize Publicity Campaign**

German fruit brokers and importers in Hamburg have incorporated a company to conduct a publicity campaign to increase the consumption of fresh fruit, and will spend about \$95,000 in the work during the coming Winter. It is planned, according to the American Consul at Hamburg, to use 35 leading German newspapers, to broadcast weekly talks over the radio, to display advertisements in motion picture houses, and to distribute about 750,000 colored placards.

Funds for the conduct of the advertising campaign have been raised by subscription among various importers and brokers, the amount of the contribution depending on the size of the individual broker's business. In addition four pfennigs (about 1 cent) a case will be assessed on each case of imported fruit.

### Pumpkins and Squashes Tested

Ten tons of pumpkins and squashes were harvested in a test of varieties made at the Experiment Station at Geneva, N. Y., during the season just ended, and a great diversity of sizes, forms, and colors was encountered. The tests included 38 varieties of summer squash, 70 varieties or strains of winter squash, 20 varieties of vegetable marrows, and 30 varieties of pie pumpkins, 158 kinds all told. Cooking tests are now in progress with many of the less well-known varieties to determine their usefulness in the home or for canning purposes.

These tests of squashes and pumpkins are part of a plan to try out on the Station grounds all varieties of the different vegetables that will grow in New York in much the same way that the Station has tested all the hardy fruit varieties. Later, the information gained in these tests will be made available in a series of books on vegetables similar to the "fruit books" published in recent years.

### Revised Crop Figures on Sweet Potatoes and Pears

The U. S. Crop Reporting Board has issued revised statistics showing that the production of sweet potatoes in 1926 was 84,346,000 bushels, as compared with 62,494,000 in 1925, and a five-year average of 84,457,000. The quality in 1926 was 88.1 per cent, as compared with a ten-year average of 86.8 per cent. The yield per acre this year was 101.4 bushels per acre, as against a ten-year average of 93.2 per cent.

The pear crop this year was 25,269,000 bushels, as compared with 19,820,000 in 1925, and the quality this year was 89.8 per cent as compared with a ten-year average of 87.1 per cent.

### Hearing on Proposed Extension of Corn Borer Quarantine

The Department of Agriculture has announced that a public hearing to consider the advisability of extending the corn borer quarantine to include Indiana and West Virginia will be held at the Federal Horticultural Board, Washington, D. C., at 10 A. M., November 17. The pest has recently been discovered in these two States.

The quarantine is now effective as to portions of Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Maine, Vermont, Rhode Island, New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Michigan, which have hitherto been reached by this pest. Under the quarantine measure the movement from infested areas of these States of corn and broom-corn (including all parts of the stalk) all sorghums, and sudan

grass, is restricted or prohibited. Additional articles are restricted from infested areas of the States of Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island, where the insect is double brooded.

#### Imports of Canned Tomatoes and Tomato Paste

During the month of September imports of canned tomatoes totaled 7,616,844 pounds valued at \$350,300, as compared with 7,980,042 pounds valued at \$347,048 in the corresponding month last year, a decline in both volume and value. On the other hand, imports of tomato paste increased, the amount coming in during September of the present year having been 1,828,231 pounds valued at \$178,625 as compared with 1,104,057 pounds valued at \$104,454 in September last year.

#### Freight Loading Record Again Broken

Again the record for revenue freight loadings in a single week has been broken, the total for the week ended October 30 having been 1,216,432 cars, an increase of 6,269 cars over the previous high record established during the week ended October 16.

The highest loading for any one week in each year since 1922 with the highest loading so far this year follows:

<i>Week</i>	<i>Cars</i>
October 24, 1922 .....	999,718
September 25, 1923 .....	1,097,493
October 23, 1924 .....	1,113,053
August 29, 1925 .....	1,124,438
October 30, 1926 .....	1,216,432

The week of October 30 was the 23rd week this year that loadings have been in excess of one million cars a week and brought the total number of cars loaded with revenue freight for the first 44 weeks this year up to 45,257,913 cars, an increase of 1,827,810 cars over the corresponding period last year and 4,100,539 cars over the corresponding period in 1924.

#### Correction

Through a typographical error last week's Information Letter carried the date of November 30. Members maintaining permanent files of the Letter should, therefore, change the date to November 6th.